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PROCEEDINGS IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH USSR
REPORTED IN JULY 1951

The Collegium discussed the reports of Academician N. N. Anichkov, President of the Academy of Medical Sciences, and Prof G. B. Vygodchikov, Chairman of the Scientific Council, Ministry of Public Health USSR, on the fulfillment of the 1951 work plan by scientific research institutes.

Scientific research institutes have made significant progress in the development of Pavlov's teachings. The Pavlov Scientific Council discussed the ideological-methodological contents of the plans of Academy of Medical Sciences USSR institutions, which had considerable influence on the trend of scientific studies and their successful fulfillment.

Creative discussions devoted to the results obtained from the fulfillment of the problematic plan in the field of three most important branches of Pavlov's teachings, namely, higher nervous activity, circulation, and digestion, were held during special sessions of the Academy of Medical Sciences USSR in Moscow, Leningrad, and Ryazan'.

Of considerable importance are the investigations in the study of the types of higher nervous activity in man which were conducted by Prof M. A. Usiyevich together with clinicians of the Institute of Pediatrics, and by Prof V. K. Fedorovich in the Institute of Experimental Medicine. Subsequent to the decision of the Pavlov joint session a change has occurred in the trend of the thematics of the Institute of General and Experimental Pathology which is directed by Academician A. D. Speranskiy.

Research on the problem of digestion is being conducted successfully under the direction of Prof I. P. Razenkov and Prof O. P. Molchanova. The Institute of Obstetrics and Gynecology in Leningrad is conducting special research on the improvement of painless childbirth by means of verbal influence.

The works of O. B. Lepeshinskaya occupied a significant position among medico-biological research. In the Division of the Institute of Experimental Biology which she heads, new data was obtained on structural formation in a living substance. Through these studies it was shown that an intensive structural formation corresponding morphologically to cell structures takes place in noncellular blood plasma under well-known conditions.

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Works in the field of pharmacotherapy of experimental pathological processes closely tied in with clinical studies were extensively developed.

Material gathered on the treatment of tuberculosis shows the higher therapeutic efficiency of streptomycin produced in the Soviet Union. The synthesis of tubin was perfected and tests performed show its efficiency in the treatment of many forms of tuberculosis.

Clinical tests of the new antibiotic albomycin revealed great possibilities for a significant reduction of its lethal effect on small children.

On the problem "Principles of Prophylaxis and Treatment of Eye Diseases," studies were conducted to determine the effect on glaucoma of various medical substances substituted for pilocarpine. Pavlov's ideas on protective retardation were used in the sleep therapy of glaucoma in different stages.

Institutes of the Academy of Medical Sciences USSR gave much attention to the development of the problem concerned with medicosanitary servicing of the great Stalin building projects.

In addition to research, the institutes are rendering consultative and practical assistance to medical workers connected with these building projects. On the route of the future Turkmen Canal, for example, a large group of scientific workers are doing research work as well as rendering aid to local public health organizations in the establishment of antiepidemic protective measures for project workers and the general public.

The Collegium also noted serious deficiencies in the organization of scientific research work. Clinical institutes up to this time have been slow in solving many actual problems of physiology. Research in the Laboratory of the Physiology of Labor of the Institute of Labor Hygiene and Occupational Diseases, directed by Prof D. I. Shatenshteyn, is in an unsatisfactory state. The Academy of Medical Sciences USSR intolerably delayed the discussion of problems in psychiatry and neuropathology in the light of Pavlov's teachings. Furthermore, there are still strong anti-Pavlov attitudes in psychiatry. Up to this time, Prof P. K. Anokhin's research has not been subjected to a discussion. Anokhin, who asserts the influence of the cortex of the main brain in the processes of regulation of the activity of the cardiovascular system, in his experiments separates the function of the underlying branches of the nervous system from the cortex of the main brain.

The Academy of Medical Sciences USSR has not conducted any important studies on the problem "Physiological Principles of Physical Culture." Such important questions as the role of medical nutrition in the case of hypertension are not being developed together with studies which are devoted to medicinal methods of therapy. Experimental biological models of hypertension and the fragmentation of the myocardium which are suitable for testing pharmacological remedies have not been set up. Work is progressing slowly in the field of prophylactic vaccination against tuberculosis, in obtaining new vaccine strains, and in producing new antibiotic and chemotherapeutic substances. A break still exists between studies of laboratories engaged in the study of the etiology and pathogenesis of malignant tumors and the work of institutions which synthesize and produce anticancer preparations.

The Collegium made the Scientific Medical Council, Ministry of Public Health USSR, and the Presidium of the Academy of Medical Sciences USSR responsible for introducing the necessary corrections into the problematic plan of scientific research and for adopting concrete measures for its fulfillment.

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